

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 mounting on a first computer a required number of mass storage devices needed by a
3 second computer;
4 coupling the required number of mass storage devices to a storage device emulator that is
5 coupled to the second computer, the mass storage devices being remotely coupled to the storage
6 device emulator via a network;
7 dynamically emulating the required number of mass storage devices in the storage device
8 emulator; and
9 booting the second computer utilizing the emulated mass storage devices in the storage
10 device emulator.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 assigning a logical unit number to each of the mass storage devices, wherein the storage
3 device emulator communicates with each of the mass storage devices by identifying the logical
4 unit number of the mass storage device being utilized.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage device emulator communicates with the
2 required number of mass storage devices by wrapping a Universal Serial Bus (USB) protocol
3 data from the second computer in a Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)
4 packet.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein each mass storage device is a USB device.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one of the mass storage devices is a floppy disk
2 drive.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one of the mass storage devices is a Compact
2 Disk-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) drive.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the network coupling the mass storage devices with the
2 storage device emulator is a secure administration network.

1 8. A system comprising:
2 a first computer;
3 a second computer coupled to the first computer via a network;
4 a required number of mass storage devices, needed by the second computer, mounted on
5 the first computer;
6 a storage device emulator coupled to the required number of mass storage devices and the
7 second computer, the mass storage devices being remotely coupled to the storage device
8 emulator via the network;
9 means for dynamically emulating the required number of mass storage devices in the
10 storage device emulator; and
11 means for booting the second computer utilizing the emulated mass storage devices in the
12 storage device emulator.

1 9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:
2 means for assigning a logical unit number to each of the mass storage devices, wherein
3 the storage device emulator communicates with each of the mass storage devices by identifying
4 the logical unit number of the mass storage device being utilized.

1 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the storage device emulator communicates with the
2 required number of mass storage devices by wrapping a Universal Serial Bus (USB) protocol
3 data from the second computer in a Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)
4 packet.

1 11. The system of claim 8, wherein each mass storage device is a USB device.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the mass storage devices is a floppy disk
2 drive.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the mass storage devices is a Compact
2 Disk-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) drive.

1 14. The system of claim 8, wherein the network coupling the mass storage devices with the
2 storage device emulator is a secure administration network.

1 15. A computer program product residing on a computer usable medium, the computer
2 program product comprising:

3 program code for enabling a mounting on a first computer of a required number of mass
4 storage devices needed by a second computer;

5 program code for coupling the required number of mass storage devices to a storage
6 device emulator that is coupled to the second computer, the mass storage devices being remotely
7 coupled to the storage device emulator via a network;

8 program code for dynamically emulating the required number of mass storage devices in
9 the storage device emulator; and

10 program code for booting the second computer utilizing the emulated mass storage
11 devices in the storage device emulator.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

2 program code for assigning a logical unit number to each of the mass storage devices,
3 wherein the storage device emulator communicates with each of the mass storage devices by
4 identifying the logical unit number of the mass storage device being utilized.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the storage device emulator
2 communicates with the required number of mass storage devices by wrapping a Universal Serial
3 Bus (USB) protocol data from the second computer in a Transmission Control Protocol / Internet
4 Protocol (TCP/IP) packet.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein each mass storage device is a USB
2 device.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein at least one of the mass storage
2 devices is a floppy disk drive

1 20. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein the network coupling the mass
2 storage devices with the storage device emulator is a secure administration network.

1 21. A method comprising:
2 mounting a plurality of mass storage devices on an administrative computer;
3 presenting to a USB Mass Storage Device Interface on a remote bootable computer a
4 command indicating how many mass storage devices are mounted on the administrative
5 computer and are available for use by the remote bootable computer;
6 disconnecting a USB Storage Device Emulator from the remote bootable computer while
7 the USB Mass Storage Device Interface is reconfigured to show how many storage devices are
8 mounted on the administrative computer and are available for use by the remote bootable
9 computer; and
10 reconnecting the USB Storage Device Emulator to the remote bootable computer with the
11 reconfigured USB Mass Storage Device Interface.